

11	Outbuildings	\$728,321.00
11	Temporary Tents	N/A
14	Wood/Pellet Stoves	\$34,396.00
5	Demolition Permits	\$28,245.00
1	Fence	\$26,500.00
2	Solar	\$66,227.00
<b>239</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,192,901.00</b>

#### **TOTAL PERMITS/CERTIFICATES ISSUED IN 2011**

<b>Number of Permits/Certificates</b>	<b>Fees Collected</b>
239 Building Permits	\$56,221.54
242 Electrical Permits	\$16,612.16
155 Plumbing Permits	\$9,010.00
120 Gas Permits	\$4,676.00
7 Sheet Metal Permits	\$70.00
45 Sign/Banner Permits	\$1,182.52
11 Annual Certificates	\$440.00
13 Trench Permits	\$390.00
<b>832 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$88,602.22</b>

#### **CABLE LICENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Cable License Advisory Committee (CLAC) assists the Stow Board of Selectmen with awarding the license a cable company requires from the town in order to provide cable television service to its residents. It also works to assure that the terms of the license are being followed.

Stow's first cable license was awarded to Adams Russell in 1986 and was last renewed in 2002 for ten years. Adams Russell provided Stow video cable service under this license for many years, and then sold its license to Cablevision, which sold it to AT&T. Today, Comcast holds that license.

The Selectmen signed a 15-year cable license with Verizon on June 24, 2008. Verizon has provided fiber optic cable to most parts of the Town and currently offers full video cable service, along with high-speed Internet service and digital telephone service to those parts of town serviced by overhead wiring. Service is gradually being extended to neighborhoods with underground wiring.

The contract with Comcast is up for renewal by October 31, 2012. In 2011, the Cable Committee prepared for upcoming negotiations by marking up a draft provided by Comcast to customize for Stow needs. Additionally, the Cable Committee collaborated with the Local Access Channel Advisory Committee and Stow TV to research Stow TV equipment, operating, and personnel needs, and to document what support the station would require over the next ten

years. The resulting “Ascertainment Document” was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen on October 25, 2011, and will be used in contract negotiations.

Both Comcast and Verizon offer many options within their video service packages, and both provide Stow’s local access channel (Stow TV) on Comcast channel 9 and on Verizon channel 32. In addition, Verizon provides Stow with a second local access channel (channel 33), which carries repeats of many of the government meetings more frequently than on channel 32.

Both licenses provide for a percentage of Comcast’s and Verizon’s income from Stow subscribers to be returned to the Town in order to support Stow TV operation. The Cable Committee ensures that all the terms of the license are being met and that all license payments are being made at the time specified by the license.

Comcast and Verizon broadband Internet and the digital telephone service provided are carried by the same cable each uses to provide Stow residents with video service. But only the video service requires a Stow license (and provides Stow with operational funds) since the Internet and telephone services are considered a ‘data’ service and are regulated by the State, not by Stow.

The Stow Cable License Advisory Committee has no control over the cost of service by either company, nor in the selection of programs offered by the companies over their video cable service. Subscribers need to call the company’s customer service to resolve any problems of this nature. If the problem is related to providing service (not content or price) and cannot be resolved by customer service, contact the Stow Cable Committee to see if additional assistance can be provided.

Lew Halprin resigned from the Cable Committee on September 28, 2011. The committee thanks Lew for his many strong contributions over the years.

Respectfully submitted,

Arny Buckman

Robert Mong

### **CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

The Cemetery Committee, which reports to the Board of Selectmen, is composed of three members, each serving a 3-year term. The committee is responsible for the management, maintenance, and upkeep of the town’s cemeteries.

The three cemeteries in Stow (Hillside Cemetery on Crescent Street, the Lower Village Cemetery at Great Road and Pompositticut Street, and Brookside Cemetery on Gleasondale Road and Box Mill Road) are maintained by the Superintendent and three seasonal part-time employees (two of whom were hired this past year). They have kept the cemeteries in good shape and have allowed the Superintendent to get many projects done. Some of the projects included tree pruning and removal, stump removal, and road sealing.